

## **BE SWIFT TO HEAR**

Text: James 1:19-2:26 Date: June 26, 2016

**Endurance is the mark of a true Christian** (v.12), [The Christian's new life being brought about by the Word of truth (the Gospel) according to God's good will,] **which results in our glorification** (perfect and complete [v. 4], a kind of first fruits of his creatures [v.18]), **therefore, the Christian endures, not by yielding to trials and persecutions** (v. 16), **but by hearing** (obeying) **the Word of truth** (the Gospel) (v.19-21) **by putting it into practice** (v.22) **demonstrated by sacrificially loving your neighbor who mistreats you** (on account of the Gospel) (v. 1:22-27; 2:8).

### **INTRODUCTION**

- ❖ Verse 1 indicates that James is writing to the Jewish Christians who have been scattered among the nations as a result of persecution and are now (out of their element and in poverty) being taken advantage of by the rich.
- ❖ We saw in verses 2-18 that instead of being led astray by yielding to trials and persecution, we are to endure them knowing that endurance produces godly character in us.
- ❖ James 1:19 now tells us how we are to respond to those who mistreat us (i.e. how we are to endure)—“*be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.*” The body of this letter unpacks this verse.
- ❖ In James 1:22-2:26, James exhorts us to apply the command “*Be swift to hear*” in 3 ways.

### **MAIN POINTS**

- 1. We hear by practicing the word of truth:** “the word = law of liberty” (i.e. love your neighbor on account of the Gospel) (v. 1:21-27)
  - A. An unloving reaction does not result in the righteous character God intends to produce in us. (v. 1:21)
  - B. Hearing the word of truth means putting it into practice (v. 1:22)
  - C. Remembering the word of truth is necessary for having the liberty to practice loving our neighbor (v. 1:23-24)
  - D. Application of the perfect law should be our aim (v. 1:26-27)
- 2. We hear by not showing favoritism:** It violates the law of love (v. 12:1-13)
  - A. Do not judge others on the basis of perceived blessings bestowed. (v. 2:1)
  - B. Hypothetical example of discriminatory behavior (v. 2:2-4)
  - C. Explanation of why favoritism is wrong (v. 2:5-13)
- 3. We hear by considering the “Law of Genuine Belief” (i.e. Doing demonstrates believing)** (v. 2:14-26)
  - A. Faith without works cannot “save” (v. 2:14-17)
  - B. Faith can only be shown by deeds (v. 2:18-19)
  - C. Faith without works is useless (v. 2:20-26)